

917.7338

B5412x

UNIVERSITY OF
ILLINOIS LIBRARY AT
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN
BOOKSTACKS

STX

917.7338

65412X

Bishop Hill

ILLINOIS

The person charging this material is responsible for its return to the library from which it was withdrawn on or before the **Latest Date** stamped below.

Theft, mutilation, and underlining of books are reasons for disciplinary action and may result in dismissal from the University.

To renew call Telephone Center, 333-8400

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS LIBRARY AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

DUE: 8-28-86

MAY 22 1986

OCT 28 1987

MAY 18 1989

OCT 28 2002

L161—O-1096

UNIVERSITY OF
ILLINOIS LIBRARY AT
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN
BOOKSTACKS

917
35

DEPOSITORY

DEC 14 1904



"utopia on the prairie"

Bishop Hill Colony

It has been called “the most valuable Swedish monument outside Scandinavia . . .”, but Bishop Hill, located in west central Illinois, is more than that. It offers a glimpse of an America that 19th century religious dissidents from Sweden saw as a potential utopia.

Although Bishop Hill nearly became a ghost town, much of the colony remains—in the form of historic buildings and artifacts as well as in its people, many of whom are descendants of the original settlers.

In 1846, the immigrants led by Eric Janson, sailed from Sweden to New York and, by way of the inland waterways and the Great Lakes, arrived in Chicago from where they walked the final 160 miles to Bishop Hill. In the 15 year history of the religious collective, over a thousand immigrants arrived from Sweden to join the colony. It is today acknowledged that Bishop Hill Colony was one of the most significant forces in the later immigration of millions of Swedes and other Scandinavians to the United States.

The Museum Shop, formerly the Colony store and postoffice (1854)



Original settler's chest, dated 1836



Preservation and Restoration

Descendants of the original colonists and others have initiated and overseen one of the most important preservation and restoration efforts in the United States. It is through their contributions that the character of a pioneer settlement with its unique architecture, arts and crafts lives again in Bishop Hill.

Fifteen of twenty major buildings of the original colony, many of which have been restored to their original state, testify to the intensity of the founders of this village. One can not help but be inspired by the sense of what the Swedish pioneers sought as well as be impressed by the ongoing preservation and restoration efforts of the living.

The combined efforts of the Bishop Hill Heritage Association, the Bishop Hill Old Settlers' Association, the Illinois Department of Conservation, and local residents, have helped to make the village one of the United States' most treasured historical assets. Bishop Hill is a National Historic Landmark and is also listed as a historic district in the National Register of Historic Places. The archives of the Library of Congress contain documentation of Bishop Hill in the Historic American Buildings Survey and the American Index of Design.

Community Events and Features

Museum exhibits, featuring the handcrafts, relics, artifacts and the paintings of Olof Krans, trace the history of Bishop Hill from 1846 to the present. A film to guide visitors on a walking tour of the village can be seen. Local craftsmen recreate the skills and crafts of the pioneers. Antiques, imports, handcrafts and gifts stock the shelves of the shops of the village, and restaurants offer delicious Swedish and American foods. Overnight accommodations are available in Galesburg, Galva, Geneseo and Kewanee.

Special celebrations at Bishop Hill include *Valpurgis* in April, Midsummer Festival in June, *Sömmarmarknad* (Summer Market) in mid-August, Old Settlers' Day in early September, *Jordbruksdagarna* (Agricultural Days) in late September, *Julmarknad* (Christmas Market) on Thanksgiving weekend, Lucia Nights (Festival of Lights) in mid-December, and *Julötta* on Christmas morning. Cultural events and craft workshops are offered throughout the year.

Steeple building stair way (1854)





Olof Krans

Olof Krans, born in Säla, Uppland, Sweden in 1839, came to the Bishop Hill Colony with his family in 1850. By trade a blacksmith and house painter, he began in later life to paint his remembrances of Bishop Hill and of his boyhood in Sweden. More than a hundred Krans oil paintings, the majority of his output, can be seen in the Colony Church and the Steeple Building. Today he is recognized as one of the foremost American folk artists. Visitors to Bishop Hill look at the Krans paintings and wonder at the strange story they tell of the early life of this village.



Self-portrait of Olof Krans

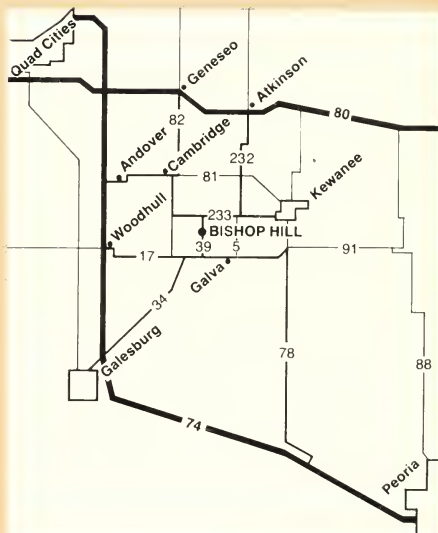


3 0112 070082869

Regional



Local



For information, please contact,

Bishop Hill Heritage Association
P.O. Box 1853
Bishop Hill, Illinois 61419
Telephone: 309/927-3899

Discover The Magnificent Miles of



Department of Commerce and Community Affairs
Office of Tourism
printed with state and local funds



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-URBANA



3 0112 075721701

METAL EDGE, INC.
pH Range 8.0 To 10.0
Acid Free
Passed F.A.T.
2007
600-862-2228